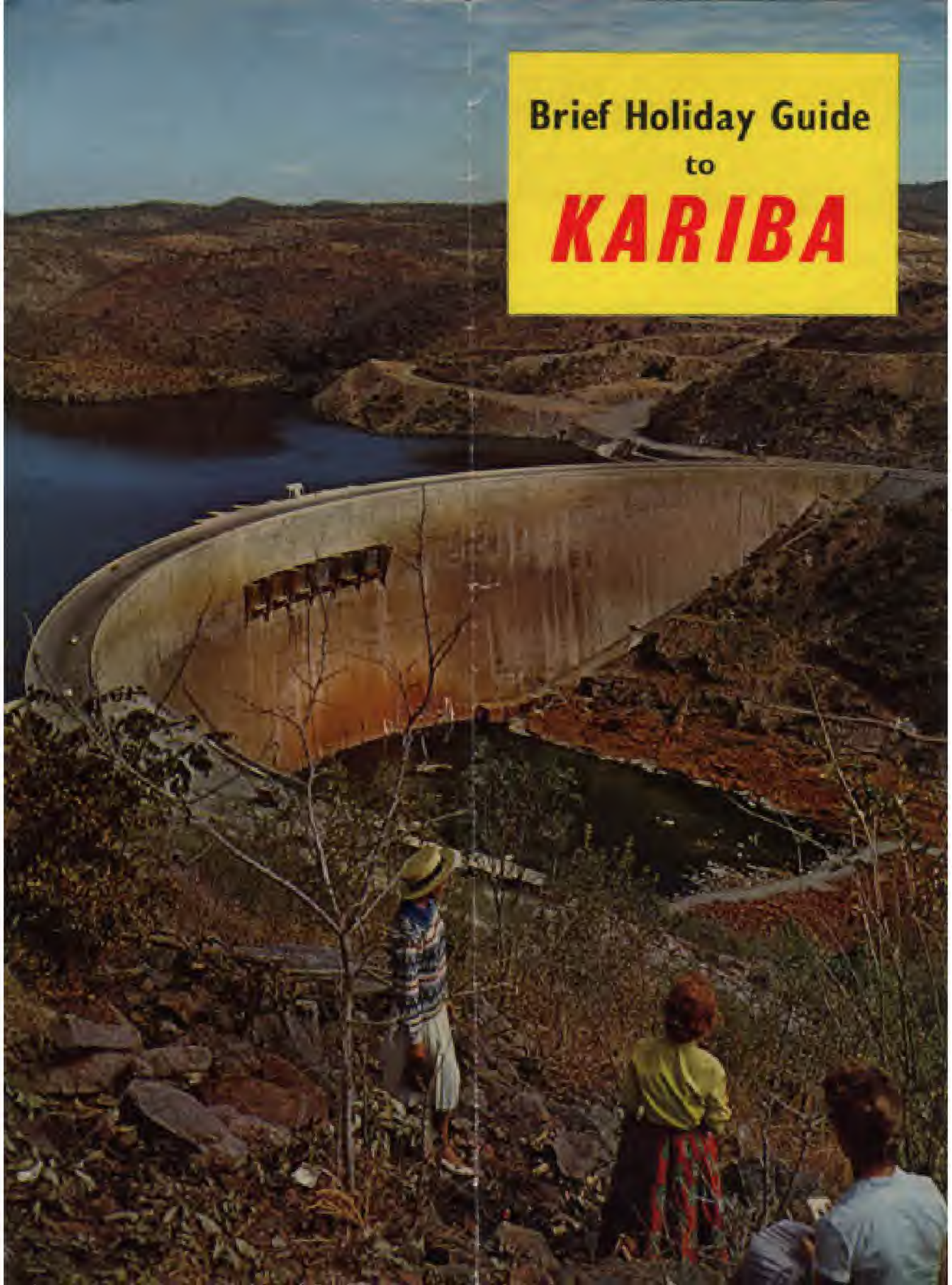


Brief Holiday Guide  
to

***KARIBA***







A good catch during Tiger-Fish Tournament



Kariba's air-conditioned hotel, 1,200 feet high.



**KARIBA** is many things. To the sight-seeing tourist the giant masonry that encloses the world's largest artificial lake is now one of the Federation's main sights, second possibly only to the Victoria Falls; to the engineer, Kariba and its power station is one of the world's greatest engineering achievements, a fine example of the genius of modern man; to the fisherman, the waters of Kariba are a fabulous fishing ground, especially for the much-sought-after fighting tiger; and to the ordinary holiday-maker, Rhodesian or South African, who falls not firmly in either of the above categories, Kariba is a place for a carefree holiday-by-the-lake, in camp, motel or hotel.

This brief guide, it is hoped, will answer some of the questions of intending visitors and holiday-makers. It should, however, be noted that the guide is confined to the north-eastern end of Kariba in the near vicinity of the Wall, where the greatest development, under the control of the Federal Power Board or a Territorial Government, has taken place up to the time of writing (September, 1962).

Lake Kariba is vast, and many other parts of the shoreline are due for large-scale development in the future. These have not been included.

#### HOW TO GET THERE

There are only two ways of getting to Kariba — by road or by air.



**ROAD.** From Southern Rhodesia, the main road from Salisbury to Northern Rhodesia is taken as far as Makuti, where a turn-off to the left, on a good, wide gravel road, leads to Kariba. The road from Salisbury to Makuti, a distance of 180 miles passes through Sinola (72 miles) and Karoi (120 miles). Except for 10 miles (in the vicinity of Karoi) still in the course of construction, the Salisbury-Makuti road is first-rate, tarred to 22 ft. By the end of 1962 the short unmade stretch is expected to be similarly tarred. From Makuti the gravel road continues for 40 miles up to the Kariba Airport turn-off to the left, whence a very good tarred road runs another 10 miles to Kariba township itself and a further one mile to the Wall. Total distance from Salisbury to the Wall: 231 miles.

From Northern Rhodesia, the shortest route is a turn-off to the right from the main tarred Kafue-Salisbury road, 11 miles before Chirundu. The distance to the Wall from the turn-off is 42 miles, all good, gravel road.

If you are not visiting the Federation with your own car and you want a road trip to Kariba, several alternatives present themselves. You can hire a reliable drive-yourself or chauffeur-driven car at any of the main centres of the Federation either direct from car-hire firms or through airlines or travel agents, or avail yourself of a seat in "all-in" motor-car trips organised

by touring organisations on any day and at any time, the cost per person depending upon the number of persons travelling in the car. There is also a scheduled coach service between Salisbury and Kariba, twice a week.

**AIR.** Central African Airways operate scheduled air services to Kariba three times a week, both southbound and northbound, which provide suitable return flights after a two-day stay. C.A.A. transport between the airport and Kariba Hotel only is available, at a nominal charge.

A full range of package tours to Kariba by road or air are available from the principal centres of the Federation. Kariba also features in all-inclusive holidays of the Federation sold by travel agents throughout the world. Most of these tours include conducted sight-seeing of the dam area and the underground power station, and a launch cruise on the lake.

#### WHAT TO SEE AND DO

There is more to see and do at Kariba than viewing the Wall, fishing and boating.

The Federal Power Board conducts parties of visitors round the underground power station (normally open only to officials and technicians and closed to "casual" visitors), on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, starting at 10 a.m. Such a tour lasts an hour, and — if you are not after tiger-fish — can be the highlight of your visit to Kariba, for tourists are taken down 600 feet into what seem the very bowels of the earth to the impressive generator and turbine levels. The full-time courier, an engineer himself, explains the whole complex structure at the very outset with the use of an exact model of the power station. The number of persons in a tour is limited to 20, and, although during the week you might be able to join a party without prior booking, it is best to carry out the Power Board's instruction that applications to join a particular tour must be received by the Secretary, P.O. Box 630, Salisbury, a week ahead, with postal orders covering a charge of 5s. per person. Children under 12 cannot be admitted.

If you are based at the Kariba Hotel or at a motel, you will find it most rewarding to visit the other motels and camp sites. Each has its own atmosphere, outlook and amenities, which will add variety to your stay at Kariba.

A tour of Kariba township, 1,200 ft. high on a hill overlooking the lake and reached by a tarred, winding, scenic road, should not be omitted, if only to see the circular open-air Roman Catholic church built by the Italian employees of Impersat, the main constructors of Kariba. Nearby is the open-air cinema, built also by Italians in Colosseum style, to which visitors to Kariba can go (don't forget a cushion!) for a nominal charge.

Impressive view of gorge from the Wall.



Back from a day's good fishing at Kariba.







Off on a cruise in the M.V. Zambezi.



In the machine hall of the power station.

Apart from offering small boats of all descriptions on hire for private trips on the lake, Venture Cruises Boatel and Kariba Motel and Boating Company operate special scenic lake cruises to the Wall several times a day, which tourists will find most pleasurable and relaxing. Kariba Motel's M.V. Zambezi, the largest vessel on the lake, is liquor-licensed.

#### BEST TIME FOR VISITING

From April to September, the dry winter months. The hottest months are October and November, although the fishing is particularly good in these months, and lake breezes counteract the seasonal rise in humidity.

#### FISHING

Wherever you stay in Kariba you can hire boats, rafts or cruisers and set off on fishing expeditions with all the advice and assistance you require.

The most sought-after fish at Kariba is the fighting tiger (*Hydrocyon vittatus*), closely followed by the bream family. The latter include the large black bream (*Tilapia mossambica*), the weed-eating (or red-belly) bream (*Tilapia melanopleura*), the plankton-eating bream (*Tilapia macrochir*), and the green bream (*Sargochromis codringtoni*).

Other species of fish to be found are the chessa, n'kupi, bottlenose, Cornish jack, and (in the swampy areas) the lung fish. There are also barbel, electric barbel, the giant cat-fish (known to Rhodesians as *mundu*), squeakers (an excellent tiger bait), yellow fish, Hunyani salmon — and, of course, eels.

#### ACCOMMODATION AND RESTAURANTS

There is a variety of accommodation to suit all tastes, from a modern air-conditioned hotel to an organised camp where you can pitch your own tent. In the Kariba area, under the Federal Power Board's jurisdiction, the only camping grounds are those leased to the motels.

**Kariba Hotel** (P.O. Box 88, Kariba. Phone 275. Teleg. "Karibatel"). Situated 1,200 feet above the lake, in the township, with a glorious view across 25 miles of water to Sanyati Gorge. Air-conditioned bedrooms. Table d'hôte and à la carte meals. Dinner dance on Saturdays. Unfortunately accommodation is limited to nine double bedrooms in the hotel and 10 singles in a nearby building.

**Kariba Motel and Boating Co.** (P.O. Box 80, Kariba. Phone 291. Teleg. "Karmotel"). Turn-off is 4.8 miles from Kariba Airport turn-off. Wooden cabins, thatched chalets (with attached showers) and prefabricated rondavels, all with linen and electricity. Ablution blocks with showers and

baths. Camping site with showers, toilets and filtered drinking water. Table d'hôte and à la carte meals. Well-stocked shop which also sells tackle and hires rods. Dinghies, boats and cruisers of all kinds for hire. Petrol.

**Venture Cruises Boatel** (P.O. Box 3, Kariba. Phone 203. Teleg. "Venture"). Turn-off is 5.7 miles from Kariba Airport turn-off. Pre-fabricated steel rondavels with linen, electricity and running water; floatels (a floating, thatched bedroom, something of a novelty) with linen and electricity; and tents in camping site, with beds, electricity but no linen. Table d'hôte meals. Big, well-stocked shop, which also sells tackle and hires rods. Dinghies, boats, rafts (another novelty) and cruisers of all kinds for hire. Camping site with showers, toilets and filtered drinking water. Liquor licensed. Petrol.

**Letsure Bay Motel** (P.O. Box 15, Kariba). Six miles from the Wall, on Northern Rhodesia side. Turn-off to the left after two miles. Brick chalets with linen and running water. Ablution blocks with showers and baths. Table d'hôte meals. Liquor licensed (bar and bottle store). Boats and tackle for hire. Camping site with tents available. Well-stocked shop. Petrol.

**Charara of Kariba** (P.O. Box 100, Kariba). Turn-off is 33 miles from Makuti, thence another 11 miles of not-easy motoring through the Maango Range. Chalets with linen and running water. Ablution blocks with showers and baths. Meals and liquor when restaurant is completed. Big well-stocked shop. Boats, rafts and cruisers and tackle for hire. Petrol. Charara is essentially for fishermen and accompanying families. Booking agents: Fisherman's Corner, Baker Avenue, Salisbury.

**Redcliff Island** (P.O. Box 2, Kariba). Headquarters of Rex Bean's fishing safaris. Only furnished chalets with refrigerators available. No meals or food provided. Turn-off for mainland jetty is 6.1 miles from Kariba Airport turn-off. Booking agents: Benlans and Purdy (Pvt.) Ltd., P.O. Box 1751, Salisbury. Phone 21994.

#### WALL AND LAKE

The double-curvature concrete arch dam has a maximum height of 420 ft. and a crest length of 2,025 ft., and carries a 40 ft. wide road. It contains approximately 1,275,000 cu. yd. of concrete. There are six flood-gates, each 30 ft. high by 31 ft. wide, whose combined discharge capacity is 336,000 cusecs.

The capacity of the lake when full is 40,837,560 million gallons. The length from tip to tip is about 175 miles, the maximum width 20 miles, and the total area about 2,000 square miles.

The circular, open-air church at Kariba.



A cool, steel rondavel at Venture Cruises Boatel.







On the terrace of Kariba Hotel, overlooking lake.



Sight-seeing pleasure cruise on lake.



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Fishing from a raft hired from Venture Cruises.



A double brick-chalet at Leisure Bay Hotel.

